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about one inch out of the true line ; grind off the teeth of the file ; retemper the blade ; put on a strong wooden handle, and get a leather case made for convenience of carriage.

Or, again, such an instrument may readily be made *de novo*. It should be, blade and handle included, about eleven inches long, and each side of the triangle where the blade joins the handle seven-eighths of an inch wide. Some of the advantages of this narrow but strong instrument are that it will follow the roots we wish to extract without cutting them, and into crevices of rocks where a broader tool could not be inserted or would be liable to break. It was the favorite instrument of that eminent botanist, Philip Barker Webb, in his Alpine excursions. [See Collector's Handbook, by the Rev. W. W. Spicer, M. A., London, 1869, p. 158.]



In the accompanying wood-cut, the blade is not quite enough curved.
F. J. B.

61. Note from Dr. Engelmann.—I have now had Prof. Wood's specimen of *Opuntia* from Westchester Co., one from New Jersey sent by Mr. Meehan, and a third from New England, probably Massachusetts, furnished by Prof. Gray, side by side in cultivation with our Missouri and Illinois *O. Rafinesquii*. It is certainly less spiny, and sometimes the flower is smaller than in our plant, but the deep green colour, the long spreading leaves, and the bright brown bristles, especially on the older joints, on which they increase in number and length to considerable bunches, are characteristic of the plant. With them I have growing the true *O. vulgaris* sent by Dr. Schott from the banks of the Potomac and probably not found north of Chesapeake Bay, with thicker light green joints, shorter, thicker, more adpressed leaves, and small bunches of short thin greenish yellow bristles. This is the plant which is cultivated in Europe under that name and has become naturalized in Northern Italy and which I have described and figured as such in Vol. 4, Pacif. R. Reports.

Mr. H. Gillman of Detroit has found in the neighborhood of that city *Spirodela polyrrhiza* in bloom. His specimens are stouter than the Staten Island ones, and all the flowers I could examine, 5 in number, were 2-ovulate, the ovules joining at the erect funiculus, and fully anatropous, while, in that case, the single ovules were hemi-anatropous, the specimens being, as was suggested at the time, depauperate otherwise, in the structure of the anthers etc., both specimens are identical.

You may have heard that the Germans, or rather the Rhinelanders were quite excited last spring about the discovery of the aromatic *Asperula odorata* in America, an herb which is highly prized for the flavor it imparts to wine. I obtained specimens and found them to be *Galium triflorum*, Mchx. Upon my publishing this for the information of my German friends, the true *Asperula odorata* was sent to me by the editor of the N. Y. Staats-Zeitung your city, as having been found in the woods near Brooklyn. There can be no doubt of my having seen fresh specimens of the true plant. How can that be? Has it been planted and naturalized there, or

does it come from gardens? Its native localities in Germany are principally beech woods.

St. Louis, August 22.

G. ENGELMANN.

MARRUBIUM, L.—*M. vulgare*, L.; not very abundant, but to be found by roadsides and on old places in all our districts; Striker's Bay, N. Y., *Ruger*.

GALEOPSIS, L.—*G. Tetrahit*, L.; "Philipsburg" *Eddy in Torr. Cat.*; Yonkers, *Pooley*; Glen Cove, *Coles*; not common.—*G. Ladanum*, L.; Yonkers, *Pooley*; very rare.

STACHYS, L.—*S. palustris*, L.: Var. *aspera*; not uncommon; N. Y., *Torr. Cat.*; not reported from Long Island.—*S. hyssopifolia*, Michx.; Flushing, Bath, &c., *State Flora*; Jamaica and Middle Island; frequent in Suffolk Co., *Allen*; Closter, plant with odor of mushrooms, *Austin*.

LEONURUS, L.—*L. Cardiaca*, L.; very common; N. Y.

LAMIUM, L.—*L. amplexicaule*, L.; common in old grounds; N. Y.

BORRAGINACEÆ.

ECHIU, Tourn.—*E. vulgare*, L.; between Jamaica & Flushing, *W. H. L.*; Glen Cove, *Coles*; Westchester Co.; Bergen Point, *W. H. L.*; Sufferns, and common in Orange Co., *Austin*.

LYCOPSIS, L.—*L. arvensis*, L.; Babylon, *Merriam*; near Brooklyn, *Ruger*; Bergen Co., N. J.; *W. H. L.*

SYMPHYTUM, Tourn.—*S. officinale*, L.; not uncommon; in some places seems well established by streams in meadows.

ONOSMODIUM, Mchx.—*O. Virginianum*, DC.; Kingsbridge, *Torr. Cat.*; Harlem, Jamaica, *T. F. A. & W. H. L.*

LITHOSPERMUM, Tourn.—*L. arvense*, L.; Orange and Rockland Counties, *Austin*; not uncommon on Long Island, *Ruger*, *W. H. L.*; in neglected fields, *Torr. Cat.*—*L. officinale*, L.; plentiful at New Jersey Zinc Mines, *Austin*; near Sing Sing, *State Flora*; Hills back of Hoboken; Gowanus, *Ruger*.

MYOSOTIS, L.—*M. palustris*, Withering: Var. *laxa*; common; N. Y.—*M. verna*, Nutt.; common at Closter, *Austin*; and Hoboken, Bergen Point, Patterson &c.; High Bridge.

CYNOGLOSSUM, Rourn.—*C. officinale*, L.; N. Y.; common.—*C. Virginicum*, L.; Weehawken, Fort Lee, *W. H. L.*—*C. Morrisoni*, DC.; common.

HYDROPHYLLACEÆ.

HYDROPHYLLUM, L.—*H. Virginicum*, L.; Weehawken and New Durham swamp; Yonkers, *Pooley*.

POLEMONIACEÆ.

PHLOX, L.—*P. pilosa*, L.; Passaic, *Thurber*; Chatham, N. J. vid. § 43.—*P. subulata*, L.; Patterson, and Red Bank, N. J.: other cultivated species are often found flourishing by roadsides.

CONVOLVULACEÆ.

QUAMLOCLIT, Tourn.—*Q. coccinea*, Mœench; "I have seen this species"